28th January 1931]

Progress of the North Bank Canal scheme.

* 148 Q.—Mr. K. SINGAM AYYANGAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the estimate for the North Bank Canal scheme has been reduced from the original investigated estimate, and if so, the reasons for the same;

(*b*) whether the shifting of the head to Ayilur forms part of the estimates which are under consideration of the Government for which the Government are issuing orders;

(*c*) the extent which the construction of the High Level Channel and the Bed Regulator will irrigate, according to the estimates received by the Government;

(*d*) whether the extent has since been minimized and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(*e*) whether the Government has received reports from the Superintending Engineer, Trichinopoly, that as an alternative to the renewing of the Punjapatti Reservoir at a cost of Rs. 80,000 the construction of the High Level Channel and the Bed Regulator if taken up will stand as a permanent flood remedy and also save the present expenditure; and if so, what orders the Government have passed on the same?

A.—(*a*) Yes. The reduction of the estimate is mainly due to alteration in the design of the canal and its alignment and the consequent reduction of land acquisition charges.

(*b*) The Government have sanctioned the estimate. It provides for shifting the head to a site below the Ayilur temple.

(*c*) 19,000 acres of new area besides 1,552 acres of existing irrigation under the Kulittalai-Kattuvari.

(*d*) No.

(*e*) No.

Land Assignment

Applications by Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti for grant of lands.

* 149 Q.—Pandit GANALA RAMAMURTI: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti has applied to Government for a grant of lands, hundreds of acres in extent, both in Vizagapatam and Guntur districts, or somewhere in the Circars; if so, where, and for what purpose;

(*b*) what is the actual extent and the estimated value of the lands applied for;

(*c*) in what stage the applications are at present;

(*d*) what are the grounds on which his applications are based;

(*e*) whether the Government have modified the rule that lands should be granted only to members of the depressed, backward and labour classes, poor families, etc.; and

(*f*) whether any other hon. members of this House have made such darkhasts; and if so, the names of the applicants?

A.—(*a*), (*b*), (*c*) & (*d*) With a view to working out a scheme of agricultural development, Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti applied for 100 acres of land in Murukondapad village, Bapatla taluk, Guntur district. He has been informed that the lands cannot be assigned.

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti also applied to the Agent to the Governor, Vizagapatam, for the grant of about 100 acres in Lammasingi Mutta, Gudem Agency, for coffee planting. This application was rejected. It is understood that he has since applied to the Agent for another plot of land. The present stage of this later application is not known.

The Government have no information as to the value of the land applied for in Guntur and Vizagapatam districts.

(*e*) There is no rule of the nature suggested by the hon. Member.

(*f*) No.

Stopping the assignment of certain waste lands in Bellary district.

*150 *Q.*—Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is now the rule that there should be no assignment of waste lands of the Bellary district likely to be irrigated under the Tungabhadra or Boravani-Tippa projects if and when executed and, if so, when this rule was introduced and why ; and

(*b*) whether, prior to the above change, assignment of such waste lands was permitted subject to certain conditions prescribed with reference to the possible execution of the projects, and if so, what those conditions are ?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) There is no such project as the Boravani-Tippa project.

As regards the Tungabhadra project, the investigation of this project in a modified form has recently been taken up by the Government. The Government have accordingly now issued a notification to the effect that the sale of land in the Bellary district and certain other districts which are affected or are likely to be affected by the project should be subject to the following conditions :—

(i) that Government may resume the land at their pleasure at any time until the original assignment has been declared absolute by them,

(ii) that in the event of such resumption, the purchase money or such share of it as is proportionate to the area resumed will be repaid, and

(iii) that Government will not be liable to pay compensation for any permanent improvements which may have been effected on the land before such resumption.

It will thus be seen that under the notification the position is that which is described in the first part of clause (*b*) of the question. It is true that there is some confusion in the terms of the Board's Standing Order which governs this matter and the question of revising the Standing Order is under the consideration of the Government.